

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 03532 130734Z

14

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INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EFIS KS GJ

SUBJ: GRENADA PRIMIN GAIRY VISITS ROK

REF: BRIDGETOWN 763

1. THE ROK ROLLED OUT THE RED CARPET FOR GRENADA'S PRIME MINISTER ERIC M. GAIRY DURING HIS OFFICIAL VISIT TO THE ROK APRIL 28- MAY 2. VISIT RECEIVED FRONT PAGE COVERAGE, INCLUDING PHOTOGRAPHS OF GAIRY RECEIVING MEDAL FROM PRESIDENT PAK CHUNG-HUI APRIL 30, BEING MET AT AIRPORT BY PRIME MINISTER CHOI KYU-HA AND CONFERRING WITH THE PRIME MINISTER AT HIS CAPITOL BUILDING OFFICES. GAIRY ALSO MET WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND THE SPEAKER OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND WAS TREATED TO A ROUND OF ENTERTAINMENT AND SIGHTSEEING BY THE KOREAN GOVERNMENT DURING A VISIT IN WHICH THE KOREANS WERE CLEARLY TRYING TO MAKE AN IMPRESSION ON THIS LEADER OF A COUNTRY WITH A TOTAL POPULATION THE SIZE OF ONE OF SEOUL'S SMALLER SUB-DISTRICTS.

2. GAIRY AND THE KOREAN LEADERS WERE IN COMPLETE AGREEMENT IN THEIR PUBLIC STATEMENTS ON THE KOREAN ISSUE, WITH GAIRY REPORTED IN ROK PRESS AFTER HIS APRIL 29 MEETING WITH THE PRIME MINISTER AS PLEDGING GRENADA'S CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR THE POSITION OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA. ACCORDING TO MOFA LATIN AMERICAN DIVISION

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PAGE 02 SEOUL 03532 130734Z

CHIEF HWANG YONG-CHAE, ROK AGREED TO TRAIN TWO OR THREE GRENADIANS

IN THE FISHERIES BUSINESS, TO PROVIDE GOVERNMENT SCHOLARSHIPS FOR TWO OR THREE GRENADIAN STUDENTS, AND TO SEND AN ECONOMIC SURVEY TEAM TO STUDY THE HOST OF PROPOSALS FOR ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE GAIRY MADE DURING HIS VISIT. AMONG THESE PROPOSALS, ACCORDING TO HWANG, WERE WIRE NET TO BE USED FOR SOIL CONSERVATION, AIRPORT, HARBOR AND ROAD NETWORK CONSTRUCTION, STORAGE BINS FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS AND PROVISION OF GRADERS, BULLDOZERS AND TRUCKS. FISHERIES COOPERATION ALSO FORMED AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT OF THE PROPOSED ECONOMIC COOPERATION PACKAGE, AND HWANG SAID FIVE PEOPLE REPRESENTING COMMERCIAL FISHING INTERESTS HAVE BEEN SENT FROM ROK TO DO A SURVEY FOR A JOINT VENTURE. HWANG SAID THAT THE ROK DOES NOT EXPECT MUCH RETURN EXCEPT FROM THE FISHERIES, BUT THAT THEY EXPECT THAT GAIRY WILL ACT AS AN ADVOCATE OF THE ROK POSITION AMONG HIS CARRIBEAN COLLEAGUES, ESPECIALLY SUCH EMERGING STATES AS ANUILLA, ST. LUCIA AND DOMINICA. THUS ROK ASSISTANCE IS DESIGNED TO SERVE POLITICAL AS WELL AS ECONOMIC ROK INTERESTS, AND REFLECTS A CONTINUING ROK DESIRE TO COMPETE WITH NORTH KOREA IN THE CARRIBEAN.

3. ROK FISHERIES INTERESTS, ANXIOUS TO GAIN ACCESS TO THE LARGELY UNTAPPED SEAFOOD RESOURCES AROUND GRENADA HAVE EXPRESSED SOME DISSATISFACTION TO EMBOFF ABOUT ROKG MONOPOLIZING GAIRY'S TIME WHILE HE WAS IN KOREA. ROK FISHING COMPANIES ARE ATTRACTED, INTER ALIA, BY THE LOBSTER AND ABALONE WHICH REPORTEDLY ABOUND IN GRENADIAN WATERS AND APPARENTLY BELIEVE THEY CAN, BY AGREEING TO GIVE THE GRENADIANS ALL THE FLYING FISH THE KOREANS CATCH, SECURE THE COMMERCIALLY MORE LUCRATIVE BALANCE OF THE CATCH FOR THEMSELVES. KOREANS ALSO BELIEVE THEY MAY HAVE A DEAL TO USE DOLE FISH PROCESSING PLANT IN THE AREA TO PROCESS THEIR CATCH.

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